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PALESTINE REFUGEE PROBLEM:

Irrigation Development in Iraq

This paper is based on information provided by a British national who served as president of the Iraq Irrigation Development Commission. It estimates the total area of Iraq now served by irrigation at 6,800,000 acres and proposes works which would extend this area by 9,000,000 acres, at a total cost estimated at £ 113,000,000. The paper concludes that such extensive development is unlikely to be required before the end of the century, and that over this period of time, an average annual expenditure of about £ 2,000,000 would be required.

Iraq's immediate requirements are for flood control, limited irrigation development, and drainage in existing irrigated areas. On this basis, the Commission has recommended a program of works for the next ten years involving expenditures of £ 2,420,000 per annum. A large proportion of capital expenditure will be recovered from the increase in land values resulting from the contemplated projects, and detailed proposals for a taxation system to cover the cost of the works have been submitted to the Iraq Government.

PRP D-11

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Paul F Davis DATE Jan 4 1984
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